



Brownfields 2005 Grant Fact Sheet

Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, Grand Rapids, MI

EPA Brownfields Program

EPA's Brownfields Program empowers states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic development to work together to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield site is real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. On January 11, 2002, President George W. Bush signed into law the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act. Under the Brownfields Law, EPA provides financial assistance to eligible applicants through four competitive grant programs: assessment grants, revolving loan fund grants, cleanup grants, and job training grants. Additionally, funding support is provided to state and tribal response programs through a separate mechanism.

Community Description

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality was selected to receive a brownfields cleanup grant. The target site is in the City of Grand Rapids, which has a population of 197,846. Between 2000 and 2003, the city lost 7,055 jobs, causing unemployment in the area to increase to 9.4 percent, higher than the county, state, and national averages. Almost 33 percent of its residents are minorities, and the family poverty rate is almost 12 percent. The community also suffers from a multitude of contaminated sites, including two Superfund sites and numerous leaking underground storage tanks. The two-acre target site is adjacent to



Cleanup Grant



\$200,000 for hazardous substances

EPA has selected the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality for a brownfields cleanup grant. Grant funds will be used to clean up the Hoff Industries site at 719 Prospect Avenue in Grand Rapids, a former industrial metal plating and finishing facility. Funds also will be used for demolition of hazardous structures, and for soil and groundwater testing.

Contacts

For further information, including specific grant contacts, additional grant information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at: www.epa.gov/brownfields.

EPA Region 5 Brownfields Team
312-886-7576
<http://www.epa.gov/R5Brownfields/>

Grant Recipient: Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
517-373-4805

The cooperative agreement for this grant has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.

houses on two sides and within a mile of 12 schools. Potential contaminants at the site include heavy metals, degreasers, solvents, and volatile organic compounds. Illegal dumping also has occurred at the site. The cleanup and redevelopment of the target site will provide jobs for the community, increase the tax base for the city, and increase property values for neighboring residents.